



Electronic Dispatch

OSHA Information Memo

August 2005

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BLS REPORTS MAY PAY BIG DIVIDENDS

In March, 2005, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor released compiled data for Industry Injury and Illness Data for calendar year 2003. Compilations for calendar years 1994 to 2003 are available online at the following address: <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshsum.htm>. The data for 2003, and the prior years, are presented in a Summary News Release, Supplemental News Release, Summary Tables, Quartile Data, and Illness Data. Human resource managers and safety and health managers who scrutinize these reports will find that this effort will result in significant dividends in deciding where and how to focus efforts to improve safety and health performance. Pages 2 and 3 of this Information Memo are pages 1 and 2 of the listing of Industry and Illness Data, and the detailed listing for 2003.

The Summary News Release for 2003, in the introductory paragraphs, indicate that 1.3 million injuries required time away from work in 2003. Three occupational groups accounted for 17% of the total: laborers and material movers, heavy truck drivers, and nursing aides and orderlies. Most of the injuries in each group consisted of sprains and strains resulting from overexertion, contact with equipment, or lifting. By gender, 95% of the injured heavy truck drivers were male, while 91% of the injured nursing aides were female. While these data are of general interest, the array of reports contain detailed data that will be informative to any employer.

For each year, the reports contain detailed charts and tables by industry grouping, gender, type of injury/illness and part of the body affected, age grouping, race or ethnic background, and length of service with employer.

These classifications will permit any employer to focus with specificity on the industry, occupational classification, and workforce demographics in a way that will allow safety efforts to be given much sharper focus than would otherwise be possible. If an employer is able to prevent even one or two of the musculoskeletal disorders per year that comprise such a large percentage of the reported injuries by focusing its safety efforts, it will accrue significant cost savings.

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**U.S. Department
of Labor**
**Bureau of Labor
Statistics**

Injuries, Illnesses, and Fatalities



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Industry Injury and Illness Data

- Summary News Release - first release of survey data
([2003](#)) ([2002](#)) ([2001](#)) ([2000](#)) ([1999](#)) ([1998](#)) ([1997](#)) ([1996](#)) ([1995](#)) ([1994](#))
- Supplemental News Release Tables - data presented to supplement that presented in the news release
([2003](#)) ([2002](#)) ([2001](#)) ([2000](#)) ([1999](#)) ([1998](#)) ([1997](#)) ([1996](#)) ([1995](#)) ([1994](#))
- Summary Tables - detailed industry data presenting incidence rates and numbers of injuries and illnesses combined and injuries only
([2003](#)) ([2002](#)) ([2001](#)) ([2000](#)) ([1999](#)) ([1998](#)) ([1997](#)) ([1996](#)) ([1995](#)) ([1994](#))
- Quartile Data - incidence rates and quartile distributions for selected characteristics and presented by detailed industry and establishment size (based on employment)
([2003](#)) ([2002](#)) ([2001](#)) ([2000](#)) ([1999](#)) ([1998](#)) ([1997](#)) ([1996](#)) ([1995](#)) ([1994](#))
- Illness Data - selected tables presenting work related illnesses both for the current year and historically
([2003](#)) ([2002](#)) ([2001](#)) ([2000](#)) ([1999](#)) ([1998](#)) ([1997](#)) ([1996](#)) ([1995](#)) ([1994](#))

Industry Injury and Illness Data - 2003

- **Summary News Release**
 - Text and tables - 2003 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF](#) 160K)
- **Supplemental News Release Tables**
 - SNR01. Highest rates for total cases - Injuries and Illnesses - 2003 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF](#) 11K)
 - SNR02. Highest rates for cases with days away from work, restricted work activity, or job transfer (DART) - Injuries and Illnesses - 2003 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF](#) 11K)
 - SNR03. Highest rates for cases with days away from work - Injuries and illnesses - 2003 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF](#) 11K)
 - SNR04. Highest rates for cases with days of job transfer or restriction - Injuries and Illnesses - 2003 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF](#) 11K)
 - SNR05. Injury cases - rates, counts, and percent relative standard errors - detailed industry - 2003 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF](#) 9K)
 - SNR06. Highest rates for total injury cases - 2003 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF](#) 24K)
 - SNR07. Illness cases by category of illness - rates, counts, and percent - industry division - 2003 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF](#) 19K)
 - SNR08. Illness rates by category of illness - detailed industry - 2003 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF](#) 11K)

- SNR09. Percent relative standard errors of illness rates by category of illness - detailed industry - 2003 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF 11K](#))
 - SNR10. Number of illnesses by category of illness - detailed industry - 2003 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF 10K](#))
 - SNR11. Percent relative standard errors of illness counts by category of illness - detailed industry - 2003 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF 17K](#))
 - SNR12. Highest rates for total illness cases - 2003 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF 17K](#))
 - Charts presenting the 2003 survey results ([PDF 103K](#))
-
- **Summary Tables** and percent relative standard errors. The percent relative standard errors in tables A1 and A2 are a measure of sampling error, one of the **measures of the reliability** of our survey estimates.
 - Table 1 - Incidence rates - detailed industry level - 2003 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF 112K](#))
 - Table A1 - Percent relative standard errors for detailed industry rates - 2003 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF 112K](#))
 - Table 2 - Number of cases - detailed industry level - 2003 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF 112K](#))
 - Table A2 - Percent relative standard errors for detailed industry case counts - 2003 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF 112K](#))
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- **Quartile Data**
 - Q1. Total recordable cases - injuries and illnesses - detailed industry by establishment size - 2003 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF 229K](#))
 - Q2. Cases with days away, restriction, and job transfer - injuries and illnesses - detailed industry by establishment size - 2003 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF 241K](#))
 - Q3. Days away from work cases - injuries and illnesses - detailed industry by establishment size - 2003 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF 248K](#))
 - Q4. Cases with days of job transfer or restriction - injuries and illnesses - detailed industry by establishment size - 2003 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF 257K](#))
 - Q5. Other recordable cases - injuries and illnesses combined - detailed industry by establishment size - 2003 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF 239K](#))
 - Q6. Total recordable cases - injuries only - detailed industry by establishment size - 2003 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF 233K](#))
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Industry Injury and Illness Data - 2002

- **Summary News Release**
 - Text and tables - 2002 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF 160K](#))

- **Supplemental News Release Tables**
 - SNR01. Highest rates for total cases - Injuries and Illnesses - 2002 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF 11K](#))
 - SNR02. Highest rates for cases with days away from work, restricted work activity, or job transfer (DART) - Injuries and Illnesses - 2002 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF 11K](#))
 - SNR03. Highest rates for cases with days away from work - Injuries and illnesses - 2002 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF 11K](#))

On December 29, 1970, the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 became law. During OSHA's early years, BS&K represented employers who had been cited for violations of the safety and health standards, assisted employers with accident investigations, and guided them when OSHA citations posed a problem in personal injury or third party tort litigation.

As OSHA standards became more complex and technical in such areas as chemical hazards, process safety management, asbestos exposure and confined space entry, employers needed more than simply defensive representation. They needed assistance in planning and ensuring compliance with the regulations. To address the changing needs of employers, the lawyers of BS&K began to provide these broader-based services.

With the formation of the Occupational Safety and Health Law Practice Group, BS&K broadened the scope and reach of its assistance to clients. The practice group includes attorneys from other practice areas in the firm, such as business, construction, labor and employment, litigation, and environmental law. This allows us to integrate more fully advice and counsel on safety and health matters across the range of our clients.

Enforcement

The core of our OSHA representation has been, and will be, representation of employers in matters contested with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and before the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission. Frequently, that representation entails discussing with our clients alleged violations and determining which citations should be challenged and, if not, what means of abatement are feasible. In most cases, settlement terms that meet our clients' needs are negotiated with the agency. We have litigated a wide variety of cases including steel erection, compliance with the asbestos standard, vicarious liability of construction managers on multi-employer worksites, machine guarding, lockout/tagout, and fall protection.

Audit, Compliance and Training

With greater frequency, we are called upon to assist employers before they are visited by an OSHA Compliance Officer or Individual Hygienist. From that experience, our OSHA Checklist was developed. We have worked with managers and supervisors, safety and human resource personnel, on general safety programs, and specific compliance issues. This activity has been helpful to clients who have been forced to confront mounting worker compensation costs and the reality of third-party tort liability. Audit, compliance, and training have proved to be valuable to clients who want to improve their safety performance and reduce the possibility of OSHA penalties.

Industries

We have represented employers throughout the Eastern United States, in a broad spectrum of industries, which include:

- Chemical Manufacturing
- Construction
- Electrical
- Electronics
- Food Processing
- Health Care
- Higher Education
- Metal Casting and Forming
- Paper-making and Converting
- Printing and Publishing
- Retail Sales
- Trucking

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